

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: EEC, PO

SUBJECT: EC/PORTUGAL JOINT COMMITTEE FORMALLY RECOMMENDS THE
OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS

A) EC BRUSSELS 4474 B) DUBLIN 934 C) DUBLIN 927

1. BEGIN SUMMKARY: AT THE CONCLUSION OF ITS MAY 28 MEETING
IN BRUSSELS, THE EC/PORTUGAL JOINT COMMITTEE ISSUED A
COMMUNIQUE RECOMMENDING THAT THE COMMUNTIY AND PORTUGAL
INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP COOPERA-
TION AND TIGHTEN LINKS. THE EC COMMISSION IS NOW DRAWING UP,
FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL, A SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING MANDATE
FOR CHANGES TO THE EXISTING EC/PORTUGUESE AGREEMENT.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC/POUTUGAL JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ITS MEETING AS
SCHEDULED ONMAY 28 (REFTEL A) AND ISSUED THE FOLLOWING
JOINT COMMUNIQUE (INFORMAL PRESS SERVICE TRANSLATION).

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BEGIN TEXT:

" THE TWO DELEGATIONS EXAMINED APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT DURING THE TWO YEARS SINCE IT CAME INTO FORCE. IT WAS FOUND THAT ITS FUNCTIONING WAS JUDGED SATISFACTORY.

" THE JOINT COMMITTEE THEN TOOK NOTE OF A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL GROUP WHICH, AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, WAS INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE THE LATTER'S PRESENT MEETING. THE JOINT COMMITTEE EXPRESSED ITS SATISFACTION WITH THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THIS GROUP REGARDING PORTUGUESE REQUESTS IN THE FIELDS OF COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES OF INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, MANPOWER AND SOCIAL SECURITY AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION.

"ON THE BASIS OF THIS REPORT, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 35 OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING THE RELATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE AGREEMENT, BY EXTENDING THEM TO FIELDS NOT COVERED BY THE LATTER, THE JOINT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO INITIATE APPROPRIATE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP THE COOPERATION ESTABLISHED BY THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN 1972 AND TO IN THIS WAY FAVOUR A TIGHTENING OF LINKS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND PORTUGAL.

" THE JOINT COMMITTEE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE AND THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH REIGNED OVER THIS MEETING AND MADE IT POSSIBLE TO ADOPT THIS IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION." END TEXT.

3. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SOURCE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION TO SPELL OUT THE SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEGOTIATION BECAUSE THE EC COUNCIL ON MAY 26 MADE NO DECISION ON THE SCOPE OF THE COMMISSION'S NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY.

4. THE COMMISSION WORKING-LEVEL IS NOW PREPARING A DRAFT EC NEGOTIATING MANDATE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL. THE CURRENT TIMETABLE CALLS FOR THE WORKING-LEVEL TO HAVE A PAPER COMPLETED ON JUNE 5 IN THE HOPE THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION COULD APPROVE IT AND FORWARD IT TO THE COUNCIL ON JUNE 11. IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE JUNE 24 COUNCIL MEETING. OUR SOURCE INFORMS US THAT SOME MEMBER STATES HAVE INDICATED NO ACTION COULD BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL SO SOON BUT THAT IT COULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET AGAIN AS AN EC COUNCIL IN JULY.

5. OUR SOURCE SAYS THE COMMISSION WORKING-LEVEL IS PREPARING A VERY COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT SPELLING OUT PROPOSED EC NEGOTIATING POSITIONS IN SOME DETAIL. THE PAPER WILL INCLUDE A SECTION ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BASED ON A FINANCIAL PROTOCOL SIMILAR TO THOSE FORESEEN IN THE MAGHREB AND ISRAELI AGREEMENTS. SINCE IN THE PORTUGUESE CASE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE MEMBER STATES, NOT THE EC AS A COMMUNITY, THE COMMISSION WILL NOT MAKE A FORMAL RECOMMENDATION ON THE AMOUNT. OUR SOURCE SAID CURRENT COMMISSION THINKING IS THAT ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL SHOULD BE ON THE SAME ORDER OF MAGNITUDE AS IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR GREECE -- I.E. SOME 400 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT OVER FIVE YEARS. GREENWALD

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